

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
P.O. Box 740  
2000 Hutchins Ave.  
Ballinger, Texas 76821-0740  
Phone: (325)365-3415 Ext. 3

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April 5, 2008

Dear Producer:

The Concho Watershed in the Northern Edwards Plateau area of Texas is one of the 51 watersheds selected in the nation for the Conservation Security Program (CSP) in 2008. This watershed includes parts of Concho, Coke, Menard, Runnels, Schleicher and Tom Green counties in Texas. We are contacting landowners and operators in the watershed to inform you about this program. As a landowner or operator in the Concho Watershed, you may be eligible to apply for the CSP during a signup period scheduled for April 18 through May 16, 2008.

The CSP program will identify and reward those farmers and ranchers who are meeting the highest standards of conservation and environmental management on their operations. Payments can include three components: 1) an annual stewardship payment, 2) an annual payment for maintenance and 3) an enhancement payment. The participant can enroll a portion of their operation or the entire operation in the program.

At a minimum, farms and ranches will need to meet soil and water quality criteria. Participating farms are expected to be using good soil quality practices (crop rotations, cover crops, reduced tillage, prescribed grazing) and good water quality practices (conservation tillage, terraces, grassed waterways, managed livestock access to streams, nutrient and pest management, and irrigation water management) on cropland, pastureland, and rangeland. The participant will be required to provide documentation that demonstrates accomplishment of the practice(s). CSP is a competitive program and all eligible applicants will be entered into an enrollment category. The Secretary of Agriculture will select the highest ranking categories to be funded.

To help you assess your opportunities in CSP, informational meetings will be held as follows:

**April 16 – Concho County Courthouse Courtroom**  
**152 North Roberts, Paint Rock Texas, 9:00 a.m.**

**April 17 – Wall Volunteer Fire Department Hall,**  
**Loop 570, Wall Texas, 6:00 p.m.**

For additional information, you may contact your local NRCS Office in Ballinger at (325)365-3415, Robert Lee at (325)453-2623, Eden at (325)869-4021, Menard at (325)396-4708, Eldorado at (325)853-2720 or San Angelo at (325)655-3521.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy I. Saunders". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathy" being more prominent.

Kathy I. Saunders  
Concho Watershed Manager

*Helping People Help the Land*

An Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer